

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants:

1. Editorially amend the specification at one juncture.
2. Editorially amend claims 19, 31, and 36.
3. Add new dependent claim 37 (dependent on independent claim 14).
4. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. SELECTED COMMENTS REGARDING THE DISCLOSURE

The above-referenced application discloses establishing a call between "narrowband equipments", i.e. terminals and/or networks using STM, over an ATM network using the ATM switching mechanism, without affecting the STM domain. Unlike the applied prior art, the application teaches the use of STM switch emulators (e.g., 217 and 219 in Fig. 2) which provide STM resources for a virtual STM connection to a narrowband switch. The virtual connection is set up, with the switch emulators thus providing emulation of STM resources required by the narrowband call procedures, towards the narrowband switch logic (see, e.g., page 7 of the present application). Thereby, any narrowband based telephony services and associated "value added services" can be provided transparently using ATM switching, and no STM switching is required. Moreover, ATM network resources can be utilized efficiently.

C. THE PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 4 and 14-36 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited U.S. Patent 5,600,641 to Duault in view of WO 9717789 to Hiller (see enumerated paragraph 2 of the Office Action). Claims 2, 6-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,600,641 to Duault and WO 9717789 to Hiller as applied to claims 1, 4 and 36 above and further in view of previously

applied U.S. Patent 5,568,475 to Doshi (see enumerated paragraph 3 of the Office Action). Claims 3, 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,600,641 to Duault, WO 9717789 to Hiller and U.S. Patent 5,568,475 to Doshi as applied to claims 1, 4 and 36 above and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,452,295 to Nakagaki (see enumerated paragraph 4 of the Office Action).

In U.S. Patent 5,600,641 to Duault, the circuit emulation servers (CESs) supervise actual switching operations of voice slots across the switching nodes (SW-1 through SW-3). It is not through the slots (which are set up and supervised by the Duault CES), or any path configured by the CESs, that information is sent to a bearer services network entry port so that a physical connection can be established through the bearer services network. Note specifically in this regard (for example), the concluding language of independent claim 14:

the emulated connection being used for sending information to the bearer services network entry port so that a physical connection can be established through the bearer services network

Similarly, note in independent claim 24 the requirement that

the logical unit also returning over the virtual connection, to a bearer services network entry port, information so that a physical connection can be established through the bearer services network.

Further, independent claim 1 requires:

the STM connection being used for returning an address of the exit port to the entry port, or for forwarding an address of the entry port to the exit port, whereby the call can be switched directly through the ATM network.

The slots established by the Duault CESs may be used for traffic transmission, but not for establishing an emulated signaling connection which carries information (e.g., bearer service exit port) for configuring a connection through the bearer service network. Indeed, in Duault the bearer services network already knows the exit port. In fact, the original control point CP-1 computes the best route in the network (through switches SW-1, SW-2,

SW-3) (col. 8, lines 10 – 20). The original control point CP-1 also sends a connection set-up message along the route (col. 8, lines 66+), and receives back acknowledgement messages from all control points (CPs) on the route (col. 9, lines 47+). The Duault CESs may determine slots for traffic switching, but it is not through the traffic-specific slots (allocated by the CESs) that an emulated signaling connection is formed to apprise of the appropriate traffic route.

The prior art rejections based on combinations with U.S. Patent 5,600,641 to Duault overlook this distinction. The secondary references are not alleged to nor are they believed to cure this deficiency. Accordingly, the present prior art rejections are deemed untenable. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and all claims allowed.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

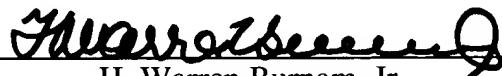
The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers, including but not limited to all fees associated with the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement, and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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